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OLC 72-0692
9 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senator Jackson's Questions Regarding Soviet Strategic Weapons

1. On 8 June 1972, in response to a request from Senator Jackson, I briefed Mr. Richard Pearle and Miss Dorothy Fosdick, of his staff, on the current Soviet strategic weapons situation, based on the prepared text used by the Director at his 25 May briefing of the Mahon group.

2. Mr. Pearle said that the Senator would be particularly interested in any answers we could provide on the following additional questions:

a. Current estimates on Soviet MIRV development--what may be the earliest possible operational capability of a MIRVed SS-9? SS-11? new large ICBM? and SLBM?

b. What are Soviet capabilities for concealed MIRV testing, e.g. through testing in a chaff cloud?

c. Once having solved their R&D problems with MIRVs, at what rate could the Soviets retrofit their existing ICBMs under: 1. "Normal" program; and 2. "Crash" program?

d. By what means does the community estimate "the state of the art" in MIRV development in the absence of the observable testing?

e. What new intelligence collection resources will be necessary for verification under the terms of SALT, and what will they tell us that we cannot obtain through existing resources?

f. Can we provide a "year by year" history of the rate of operational deployment of the Y-class submarine?

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g. What has been the rate of increase in Y-class submarine production in the Severodvinsk and Nikolaevsk yards respectively?

h. What is the capability of converting these yards from ballistic missile to attack submarines?

i. What do we know of the performance and operating characteristics of the G-class, old Y-class, and "stretch" Y-class submarines

j. Details on cruise missile subs.

k. Soviet ASW capabilities vs. our Polaris/Poseidon force.

l. Construction time for Y-class submarine from beginning to operational deployment.

m. U.S. capabilities for detecting a mobile ICBM system.

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